Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAPE T 01162 101709Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7442
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T CAPE TOWN 1162

EXDIS

FOR AF AND S/AS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: NNUS, APRM, SF, FR

SUBJ: US-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 147643; (B) STATE 143861, (C) PARIS 18364, (D) STATE 144585

1. REGRET I HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE DISCUSS WITH FOURIE,
AS I WOULD LIKE TO DO, PROJECTED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR SMITH'S
VISIT. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CHECK SIZE OF DELEGATION
WITH HIM BEFORE GIVING FINAL GO-AHEAD, BUT UNDERSTAND HE WILL BE
OUT OF TOWN UNTIL LATE MONDAY. MY INITIAL IMPRESSION IS THAT
DELEGATION IS SOMEWHAT LARGE FOR FRANKEST POSSIBLE EXCHANGES, BUT
WE MIGHT GET AROUND THIS BY SOME SMALLER SCALE MEETINGS DURING
SMITH'S VISIT.

2. THE TWO VERSIONS OF JACOMET'S VIEWS DO NOT APPEAR SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AS TO BE INCONSISTENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE A NUMBER OF THE POINTS REQUIRE FURTHER CLARIFICATION IN ANY EVENT. THEY CLEARLY REFLECT THE SAG'S MAJOR CONCERNS AND WILL HAVE TO BE COVERED IN ANY AGENDA, HOWEVER ORGANIZED, SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAPE T 01162 101709Z

ALTHOUGH OUR CONCERN WILL BE TO MAKE SURE THERE IS EQUALLY SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF WHAT SAG IS WILLING TO DO TO ADHERE TO THE NPT AND APPLY INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS TO ALL ITS NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES. (INCIDENTALLY, SINCE JACOMET'S VIEWS WERE PRESUMABLY GIVEN IN CONFIDENCE, DEPT AND PARIS MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER REFS B AND C SHOULD HAVE XGDS-1 DESIGNATION.)

- 3. I WILL SUBMIT FURTHER VIEWS ON SUBSTANCE OF FOURIE'S COMMENTS TO JACOMET ON MONDAY, BUT WOULD NOTE THAT POINT WHICH WAS MADE ABOUT REPROCESSING AND REUTILIZING SPENT FUEL FROM SAFARI IS ONE THAT IS NEW TO ME AND WILL HAVE TO BE CLARIFIED BY DEPT. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW THE PRESENT LEGAL/CONTRACTUAL STATUS OF SUCH SPENT FUEL AND ALTERNATIVE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE USG.
- 4. THE MAJOR POINT OF POSSIBLE DIFFERENCE THAT IS NOT CLEAR FROM THE JACOMET CONVERSATIONS AND IS NOT EASILY APPARENT HERE IS WHETHER THE SAG WILL PRESS AMBASSADOR SMITH FOR BROAD POLITICAL ASSURANCES THAT THE USG CANNOT GIVE. THIS IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ANY CLEARER UNTIL THE TALKS THEMSELVES TAKE PLACE. EDMONDSON

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